

St Mary's Church

40 Russell Street East, Lindsay, Ontario, K9V 2A4



June 21, 2023

Dear Parents:

With your support, the help of the parish and Catholic school community, I look forward to assisting your child to prepare to receive the **Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist**.

Children starting Grade 2 in the fall of 2023 up to children going into Grade 8 are potential candidates for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year.

The parishes of the Diocese of Peterborough are working together to offer a Sacramental Preparation Program that is consistent in form and content. This initiative is designed to assist the home, school and parish in nurturing the faith of your child as you prepare them for receiving the sacraments.

All the Catholic parishes in the Diocese work closely with the school communities. The Catholic schools provide Religious and Family Life Education for your child and the parishes provide the Sacramental Preparation Program for your child. **The Sacramental Preparation Program will be offered at the parishes.**

There will be two **Parent Information Meetings that will last 60 minutes. Please attend one.** They will be:

-Sunday September 24, 2023 after the 11 AM Mass, and

-Tuesday September 26, 2023 at 7PM.

All will be at the parish hall, which is in St. Mary's School. These meetings will help to explain the Sacramental Preparation Program and how you can continue to support your child's faith development. **Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate.**

There is a fee of \$50 for the Sacramental Preparation Program textbooks, and to help offset the cost of the materials. If this expense poses a concern, I strongly encourage you to speak with me so that assistance can be offered to you.

Your family will also have access to Formed an online Catholic content streaming service which will help prepare students with videos on the many Saints, and other faith filled videos. Details will come when classes start in the fall.

As Pastor, I am responsible in collaborating with the Bishop in following Canon Law and Diocesan Policies to ensure that all the requirements are completed in preparation for the celebration of these sacraments for your child. **If your child has not been baptized yet, please feel welcome to contact me at your earliest convenience.**

Because the preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion is important for your child, I want to encourage you to go over the requirements of this program carefully. My hope is that you take

the catechism program into consideration when making decisions for your child's extracurricular activities (such as hockey, gymnastics, lacrosse, etc) for this school year.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation Sessions

Preparation sessions will take place after the 11a.m. Sunday Mass for 60 minutes on the following dates. Sessions will be held at St. Mary Elementary school gym, our Parish Hall. Your child must attend at least 8 classes and come to Mass to be considered in good standing. You are encouraged to bring them to all the classes. As you are the first teachers of the Catholic faith, the pastor expects that starting in September you and your child will consistently attend in person Sunday Masses. Your Sunday Mass attendance will be monitored during the year. Please note the schedule is subject to change and updates. Please watch your email and parish bulletin.

- Session 1 – Sunday October 15, 2023**
- Session 2 – Sunday October 22, 2023**
- Session 3 – Sunday October 29, 2023**
- Session 4 – Sunday November 12, 2023**
- Session 5 – Sunday November 19, 2023**
- Session 6 – Sunday December 10, 2023 – First Confession**
- Session 7 – Sunday January 14, 2024**
- Session 8 – Sunday January 21, 2024**
- Session 9 – Sunday February 11, 2024**
- Session 10 – Sunday February 25, 2024**
- Session 11 – Sunday March 3, 2024**
- Session 12 – Sunday March 24, 2024**

- First Communion Rehearsal – Saturday May 4, 6:30 p.m.**
- First Communion Mass – Sunday May 5, 1:00 p.m.**

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

As you are the first teachers of the Catholic faith, you are expected, you and your child, to be consistently attending Sunday Masses, in person, as the Church requires. To miss Mass on Sunday or the Saturday evening Vigil Mass (without grave reason) is a grave sin.

I will be praying for you and your child as they prepare to receive the holy sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Dominic Clovis, IVE
Pastor, St. Mary's Church